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## NU-Website-BOR-Policies-1.1.2

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# **Chapter 1. The Board of Regents**

## **RP-1.1 Governance of the Board**

### **RP-1.1.1 Direct Responsibilities of the Board**

Under the constitution and statutes of the State of Nebraska, the Board of Regents has the authority and the responsibility for the general government of the University of Nebraska. It must exercise general supervision over all elements of the University and control and direction of all expenditures and establish the general operating policies of the institution. To assist it in the discharge of its responsibilities, the Board of Regents employs a staff and faculty who have the professional competence to develop and operate the University's programs. The Board delegates, through its Bylaws and Policies, large areas of authority and responsibility to the professional staff for the ongoing operations of the University. The Board of Regents assumes direct responsibility for:

1. Establishing short- and long-range objectives for the University System and its component campuses, and adopting and maintaining policies and programs to achieve these objectives;
2. Establishing appropriate delegation and controls to insure successful administration of its policies;
3. Approving and promulgating appropriate rules for the operation of the institution;
4. Providing the necessary physical plant for meeting foreseeable future needs, through the adoption and implementation of sound plans for the orderly development and maintenance of the System's facilities;
5. Maintaining the fiscal soundness of the University System;
6. Submitting budgets for operations and capital construction to the appropriate authority;
7. Apportioning legislative appropriations within the limits of the Board's authority;
8. Approving the appointment or removal of the President, the Vice Presidents and other key administrative officers and faculty, and fixing their compensation; and
9. Maintaining oversight of the progress which the institution makes toward its objectives, the effectiveness of policy control through its administrative officers, quality of the educational and service programs offered by the institution, and the utilization of the available resources.

Reference: BRUN, Minutes, 34, pp. 165-167 (April 8, 1972). See Also, Bylaws BRUN (1973+), s.1.2.

### **RP-1.1.2 Code of Ethics of the Board**

No member of the Legislature or any state officer shall have a conflict of interest, as defined by the Legislature, directly in any contract, with the State or any county or municipality thereof, authorized by any law enacted during the term for which he or she shall have been elected or appointed, or within one year after the expiration of such term. The Legislature shall prescribe standards and definitions for determining the existence of such conflicts of interest in contracts, and it shall prescribe sanctions for enforcing this section.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-106 authorizes the Board of Regents to enact policies for the government of the University. Accordingly, the Board of Regents hereby adopts the following code of ethics:

1. Introduction. The activities of the Board of Regents and those of its employees shall be consistent with the principle that there shall be no conflict between private interests of a public official or employee and his or her official duties.
2. Guidelines. The Board and its employees shall conform to the following guidelines:
  - a. Inform themselves of conflict of interest perils and remain alert to them in their activities;
  - b. Make certain that no outside activities could interfere with the discharge of their obligations to the University;
  - c. Freely disclose their outside activities to the University regarding situations that could involve or be construed as conflicts of interest;
  - d. Consult in advance with the appropriate officers of the University on outside activities undertaken in the general field of their competence; and
  - e. Special inducements to University personnel which might be construed to provide financial benefit to the giver shall not be accepted.
3. Special Provisions as to members of the Board of Regents:
  - a. No member of the Board shall have any substantial financial or personal interest in business transactions of the University without disclosure of such interest and without disqualifying himself or herself from the decision-making process.
  - b. No member of the Board shall grant or make available to any person any consideration, treatment, advantage, information, or favor beyond that which it is general practice to grant or make available to the public at large.
  - c. No member of the Board shall accept any gift, whether in the form of money, thing, favor, loan, or promise, that would not be offered or given if he or she were not an official.

Reference: Neb. Const. Art. III, s.16.  
BRUN, Minutes, 31, pp. 46-47 (May 31, 1969).  
See Bylaws BRUN (1973+), s. 1.10.  
See Bylaws BRUN (1973+), s. 1.10.1.  
BRUN, Minutes, 56, p. 149 (September 6, 1991).

## **RP-1.2 Duties and Privileges of**

### **Members RP-1.2.1 Duties of Members**

1. Members of the Board are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings in order to expedite the business of the Board. Absences, although sometimes unavoidable, constitute an imposition on all other members of the Board.
2. The authority of the Regents is conferred upon them as a Board, and they can bind the University only by acting together as a Board. No individual member is authorized to give administrative directive to any segment of the University or to commit the Board to any policy, declaration, or action without prior approval of the entire Board.
3. As is the case with other members of the University community, each Board member shall be constantly mindful of the visibility of close association with the University and shall assume the responsibilities which this association implies.<sup>1</sup>